

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 24-81 are pending in this application. Claims 24, 28, 33, 41, 46, 49-51, 64, 70, and 75 are the independent claims.

The independent claims, Claims 24, 28, 33, 41, 46, 49, 50, 51, 64, 70, and 75, have been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention over the cited art. No new matter has been added.

Claims 24-50 and 54-75 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,302,811 (Fukatsu). Claims 51-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Fukatsu. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention recited in the independent claims relates to providing electronic information in accordance with input money information. As recited in the independent claims, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of:

- a) wherein said processing step is not performed if the permission signal is not output in said judging step (independent Claims 24, 28, and 46);
- b) wherein said processing step is not performed if the permission signal is not output in said comparing step (independent Claim 33);
- c) wherein said processing step is not performed if said judging step judges that the use of electronic information at the terminal cannot be permitted (independent Claim 41);
- d) wherein said processing step is not performed if said judging step judges that the use of the electronic information cannot be permitted (independent Claims 49 and 50);

e) wherein said device does not receive the electronic information when said device judges that the money amount is not enough for use of the electronic information (independent Claim 51);

f) wherein said processing means does not receive the electronic information if the permission signal is not output by said judging means (independent Claims 64 and 70); or

g) wherein said processing means does not receive the electronic information if said judging means judges that the use of the electronic information at the terminal cannot be permitted (independent Claim 75).

By these features, when the inputted money information is less than a predetermined amount, provision or processing of electronic information provided by an information provider can be restricted. As a result, information security is improved.

Applicant submits that Fukatsu fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of the present invention and therefore fails to achieve the same advantages.

Fukatsu relates to a point of sale apparatus and discloses a system in which either a bank host computer (158) or a credit card company host computer (159) is connected to a cash register (100) via transmission control circuits (156 or 157). (Col. 15, lines 7-20). The host computers extract information from the register to determine whether or not a transaction is permitted. (Col. 16, lines 20-61; Col. 18, lines 21-50) However, Fukatsu does not disclose or suggest either (i) a processing means that does not receive electronic information if it is determined that a transaction cannot be permitted or (ii) not performing processing of the electronic information if it is determined that a transaction cannot be permitted. This is not surprising since Fukatsu is concerned with a point of sale device that relieves an operator of the more cumbersome operations by automating them. Thus, at least for this reason, Fukatsu neither anticipates nor renders obvious at least the aforesaid features of the independent claims.

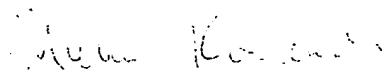
This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to place this application in condition for allowance. No new claims have been added. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that a full appreciation of these amendments will not require undue time or effort given the Examiner's familiarity with this application. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over Fukatsu. Also, Applicant submits that the dependent claims should also be allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as due to the additional features they recite. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CLAIM AMENDMENTS

24. (Twice Amended) An accounting method comprising:

a step of inputting money information indicating an amount of money recorded on a recording medium;

a step of judging the money information input in [from] said input step [means] and outputting a permission signal for permitting a use of electronic information provided by an information provider; and

a step of processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided by the information provider in accordance with the permission signal,

wherein said processing step is not performed if the permission signal is not output in said judging step.

28. (Twice Amended) An information receiving method for receiving information provided by an information provider, comprising:

a step of inputting money information indicating an amount of money recorded on a recording medium;

a step of judging the money information input in [from] said input step [means] and outputting a permission signal for permitting a use of electronic information provided by an information provider; and

a step of processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided

by the information provider in accordance with the permission signal,

wherein said processing step is not performed if the permission signal is not output in said judging step.

33. (Twice Amended) A communication method comprising:

a step of providing information including first money information from an electronic information provider terminal;

a step of receiving and using electronic information provided by said electronic information provider terminal and second money information; and

a step of comparing the first money information and the second money information and outputting a permission signal for permitting a use of the electronic information provider terminal according to a result of the comparison; and

a step of processing so as to enable use of said electronic information provided by an information provider in accordance with the permission signal,

wherein said processing step is not performed if the permission signal is not output in said comparing step.

41. (Twice Amended) A method for accounting, comprising the steps of:

inputting first data indicating an amount of money;

inputting second data regarding electronic information subscribed from an information provider to a terminal via a network;

judging whether a use of the electronic information at the terminal can be permitted or not, in accordance with the first and second data; and

processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided by the information provider in accordance with the judging,

wherein said processing step is not performed if said judging step judges that the use of electronic information at the terminal cannot be permitted.

46. (Twice Amended) A program storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform an accounting method, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting money information indicating an amount of money recorded on a recording medium;

judging the money information inputted in said input step and outputting a permission signal for permitting a use of electronic information provided by an information provider; and

processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided by the information provider in accordance with the permission signal,

wherein said processing step is not performed if the permission signal is not output in said judging step.

49. (Twice Amended) An accounting program storage medium readable by a

computer, comprising the following steps of:

inputting first data indicating a first amount of money;

inputting second data regarding electronic information subscribed from an
information provider to a terminal via a network;

judging whether a use of the electronic information can be permitted or not, in
accordance with the first and second data; and

processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided by the
information provider in accordance with the judging,

wherein said processing step is not performed if said judging step judges that
the use of the electronic information cannot be permitted.

50. (Twice Amended) An accounting program storage medium readable by a
computer, comprising following steps of:

obtaining first data indicating a first amount of money;

obtaining second data indicating a second amount of money regarding
electronic information provided from an information provider;

judging whether a use of the electronic information can be permitted or not, in
accordance with the first and second data;

processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided by the
information provider in accordance with the judging;

rewriting the amount of money in the first data based on the judgment

operation, and

notifying the judgment result of a use permission,

wherein said processing step is not performed if said judging step judges that the use of the electronic information cannot be permitted.

51. (Twice Amended) A transaction system comprising:

a provider which provides electronic information with a price data of the electronic information;[,]

a device which obtains money data recorded on a recording medium and the electronic information with the price data, in which the money data is compared with the price data to judge if the money amount is enough for use of the electronic information, wherein the device rewrites the money data based on a use of the electronic information and outputs the price corresponding to the use of the electronic information, and performs processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided by the information provider in accordance with the judging; and

an administrative terminal which sums up the price outputted from the terminal device for each information and notifies results of summing up for each information respectively to the information provider which provides the information,

wherein said device does not receive the electronic information when said device judges that the money amount is not enough for use of the electronic information.

64. (Amended) An accounting apparatus comprising:

means for inputting money information indicating an amount of money
recorded on a recording medium;

means for judging the money information input from said input means out
outputting a permission signal for permitting a use of electronic information provided by an
information provider; and

means for processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided
by the information provider in accordance with the permission signal,

wherein said processing means does not receive the electronic information if
the permission signal is not output by said judging means.

70. (Amended) An information receiving apparatus for receiving information
provided by an information provider, comprising:

means for inputting money information indicating an amount of money
recorded on a recording medium;

means for judging the money information input from said input means and
outputting a permission signal for permitting a use of electronic information provided by an
information provider; and

means for processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided
by an information provider in accordance with the permission signal,

wherein said processing means does not receive the electronic information if

the permission signal is not output by said judging means.

75. (Amended) An accounting apparatus, comprising:

means for inputting first data indicating an amount of money;

means for inputting second data regarding electronic information subscribed
from an information provider to a terminal via a network;

means for judging whether a use of the electronic information at the terminal
can be permitted or not, in accordance with the first and second data; and

means for processing so as to enable use of the electronic information provided
by the information provider in accordance with the judging,

wherein said processing means does not receive the electronic information if
said judging means judges that the use of the electronic information at the terminal cannot be
permitted.